

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:HFMATTHEWS:PM

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA:ALATHERTON

P:JJSISCO

S/S: P.JOHNSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012761

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MARR, PFOR, PLOS, EWWT, EG, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI CARGOES THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL

REF: CAIRO 11465 (NOTAL)

FOR AMBASSADORS FROM SECRETARY

1. DINITZ INFORMED DEPT JAN 12 THAT RABIN HAD ASKED THAT THE SECRETARY BE MADE AWARE OF ISRAELI PLANS TO SEND A PANAMANIAN FLAG TANKER THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL. SHIP IS 30,500 TON N/T MEDITERRANEAN SEA OWNED BY WINGORN ENTERPRISES OF HONG KONG WITH CHINESE CREW. SHIP WILL TRANSIT CANAL EMPTY BETWEEN FEB 5 AND 8 SOUTHBOUND FOR PERSIAN GULF AND WILL RETURN LOADED NORTHBOUND THROUGH CANAL IN EARLY MARCH FOR DISCHARGE AT ISRAELI MEDITERRANEAN PORT. RABIN ASKED FOR SECRETARY'S ADVICE ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS MATTER.

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2. IN LAST DISCUSSION NOVEMBER 12 WITH EILTS ON SUBJECT

ISRAELI CARGOES (REFTEL), FAHMY SAID INSTRUCTIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN GIVEN TO SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY ON HOW TO HANDLE SUCH SHIPS. SO LONG AS ISRAELIS DO NOT TRY TO BE QUOTE MISCHIEVOUS UNQUOTE BY INCLUDING STRATEGIC CARGO OR ISRAELI CREW MEMBERS OR PROPAGANDA, THESE INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED. FAHMY CONCLUDED THAT HE DID NOT WANT US

TO NOTIFY GOE ANY LONGER WHEN ISRAELI CARGOES ARE TO TRANSIT CANAL.

3. IN LIGHT OF FAHMY'S STATEMENTS AND PROVISIONS OF SINAI II AGREEMENT, WE ARE INFORMING DINITZ THAT WE SUGGEST ISRAEL SHOULD SEND TANKER THROUGH ON ROUTINE BASIS, HANDLING IT AS THEY HANDLE OTHER CANAL TRANSITS AND STRICTLY ADHERING TO PERTINENT AGREEMENT THIS SUBJECT IN SINAI II.

4. ABOVE IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION IN CASE MATTER ARISES WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS. IF EITHER OF YOU BELIEVE ADDITIONAL STEPS NEED BE TAKEN IN VIEW OF FACT SHIP IS FIRST TANKER WITH ISRAELI-BOUND PETROLEUM TO TRANSIT CANAL, PLEASE SO ADVISE DEPARTMENT. WE SEE NO POINT IN TELLING ISRAELIS OF FAHMY'S REMARKS, WHICH MIGHT BE LEAKED TO NOBODY'S BENEFIT. KISSINGER

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